

## Message Text

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17 11  
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W  
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R 130549Z OCT 73  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7378  
INFO AMEMBASSY RANGOON  
AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

S E C R E T BANGKOK 16022

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS : SNAR, PINS, BM, TH  
SUBJ: BRIEFING OF THAI POLICE OFFICIAL ON BURMESE TRAFFICKING  
AND DESSIDENT GROUPS  
REF : A. BANGKOK 15271  
B. STATE 195730

SUMMARY: WE BRIEFED THE MANAGER OF THE THAI POLICE  
NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION CENTER, AT HIS REQUEST, ON THE  
VARIOUS NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING AND POLITICAL DISSIDENT  
GROUPS THAT OPERATE BETWEEN BURMA AND NORTH THAILAND.  
THE POLICE OFFICIAL WAS LARGELY UNINFORMED ABOUT BUT MOST  
INTERESTED IN RTG RELATIONS WITH THESE GROUPS. END SUMMARY.

1. POLICE COLONEL CHAVALIT YODMANEE, OFFICER MANAGER  
OF THE POLICE NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION CENTER, ASKED AN  
EMBASSY OFFICER FOR A RUNDOWN ON NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING  
AND POLITICAL DISSIDENT GROUPS OPERATING BETWEEN BURMA  
AND NORTH THAILAND. HE SAID HE HAD TO BRIEF THE DEPUTY  
POLICE DIRECTOR GENERAL, LT. GEN. PRACHUAB SUNTHARANGKUN,  
ON THESE GROUPS, BUT KNEW LITTLE ABOUT THEM.

2. THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR OUTLINED FOR CHAVALIT  
OCTOBER 5 THE LOCATION, LEADERSHIP, AND ESTIMATED  
STRENGTH OF THE SHAN STATES ARMY, SHAN UNITED ARMY,  
SHAN UNITED REVOLUTIONARY ARMY, CHINESE IRREGULAR  
SECRET

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FORCES (CIF), TAIWAN'S INTELLIGENCE BUREAU OF THE  
MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE (IBMND), KACHIN INDEPENDENCE  
ARMY (KIA), KOKANG RESISTANCE FORCE, AND LAHU UNITED  
LIBERATION UNIT (LULU). CHAVALIT OBVIOUSLY KNEW LITTLE

ABOUT THESE GROUPS AND WAS APPRECIATIVE OF THE BRIEFING.

3. CHAVALIT WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THAM NGOP WHICH SERVES AS HEADQUARTERS FOR GENERAL LI WEN-HUAN'S CIF, THE KIA, AND THE KOKANG RESISTANCE FORCE. HE SAID THAT NO THAI, EXCEPT PERHAPS AIR CHIEF MARSHAL THAWI CHUNLASAP, COULD GET INTO THE THAM NGOP CAMP.

4. CHAVALIT ASKED WHETHER THE RTG IS SUPPORTING THESE GROUPS AND WHO IN THE RTG IS DEALING WITH THEM. THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR REPLIED THAT THE SUPREME COMMAND APPEARED TO BE CHARGED WITH CONTACTING THEM.

5. COMMENT: CHAVALIT'S IGNORANCE OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE BURMESE TRAFFICING AND DISSIDENT GROUPS, AND PARTICULARLY OF THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE RTG, HIGHLIGHTS THE DIVISION WITHIN THE RTG OVER SUPPORT FOR THESE GROUPS. THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, INTERESTED IN IMPROVING RTG/GUB RELATIONS, WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE RTG LESS TIED IN WITH THEM. THE THAI POLICE ARE PRINCIPALLY CONCERNED WITH THE DIRECT AND INDIRECT INVOLVEMENT OF THESE GROUPS IN NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING. THE SUPREME COMMAND SEES THEM AS A BUFFER BETWEEN THAILAND AND THE BURMESE COMMUNIST PARTY/WHITE FLAG IN NORTH BURMA.

6. THE BRIEFING SERVED AS FURTHER FOLLOW-UP TO DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTIONS ON URGING THE RTG TO WITHDRAW ITS HOSPITALITY TO THE IBMND (REFTEL B). WE MUST BE CAREFUL, HOWEVER, THAT OUR EFFORTS TO URGE IBMND REMOVAL FROM THAILAND DO NOT SERIOUSLY DAMAGE OUR LONGSTANDING COOPERATION WITH LT. GEN. KRIANGSAK CHOMANAN, DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE SUPREME COMMAND. KRIANGSAK SEES RTG SUPPORT FOR THE IBMND AND THE BURMESE DISSIDENTS AS IMPORTANT FOR THAILAND'S SECURITY. KRIANGSAK'S GOOD WILL IS VITAL TO US ON OTHER ISSUES LIKE THE U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE  
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IN THAILAND AND THE COMPLEX OF UNWRITTEN AGREEMENTS THAT PRESENCE ENTAILS.  
UNGER

SECRET

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
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**TAGS:** SNAR, PINS, BM, TH, (CHAVALIT YODMANEE)  
**To:** STATE INFO RANGOON  
CHIANG MAI  
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